

WHY WE EXIST

ABUSE COSTS THE COMMUNITY UP TO \$30 BILLION DOLLARS A YEAR.



Report by Australian Childhood Foundation, Access Economics and Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia at Monash University, 2007



THE IMPACT OF ABUSE IS LIFE-LONG AND AFFECTS US ALL.

Traumatised children suffer throughout their lives, long after the abuse itself has stopped.

Abuse and neglect impacts the brains of young children, shaping their behaviour and reactions to the world around them, leaving them ill-equipped to manage the demands of adulthood.

Without specialist help and protection, the experience of abuse can become the starting point for a lifetime of struggle, confusion, conflict and breakdown. It can lead to depression, drug and alcohol addiction, violence, crime, mental illness and youth and adult suicide.



TRAUMA COUNSELLING TEAM

Our counselling team uses creative art therapies, music therapy, animal-assisted therapy and other therapeutic approaches to give children back the sense of joy, laughter and play that is so naturally a part of any childhood. They work with abused children to help them understand that the

abuse was not their fault and let go of the feelings of shame, hurt and anger that have dominated their lives.

WHAT DOES OUR TRAUMA RECOVERY TEAM LOOK LIKE?



Our trauma teams work throughout Australia, including in remote and regional areas.

We have specialist trauma centres dedicated to recovery and healing and have established approaches to supporting children that ensure recovery is lasting and meaningful.

Our trauma teams also work with residential care staff and foster carers, and support teachers and community groups that care for children.

Working as a truly community-based organisation means we collaborate with everyone possible to help abused children to reclaim their childhoods, including other not-for-profit organisations and child-focused agencies.



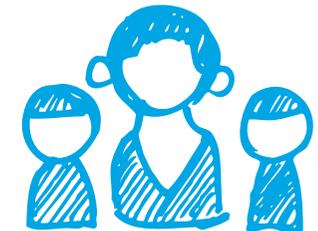
RESIDENTIAL CARE TRAUMA TEAM

Children in residential care units are still dealing with massive trauma from their experiences of abuse, neglect and family violence. This is often made worse by multiple placement breakdowns as carers and protection workers feel ill-equipped to meet their needs and give up on them. Our residential care team intervenes to assist carers and protection workers to better support these children and young people, who are often very confused, angry and frightened.



TRAUMA TRAINING TEAM

By translating our understanding of the science and knowledge behind the impacts of trauma on the brain, our training team has been able to empower police, teachers, carers and welfare professionals, on how to respond to, and support, abused and traumatised children.



FOSTER CARE TRAUMA TEAM

Foster care support specialists take our understanding, research and knowledge of trauma into the field to support foster carers. Their objective is to help carers to better support children who have been abused and neglected. Children who have been traumatised by abuse find it hard to trust others. Their experience in relationships is one of hurt, distrust and betrayal, and their reactions and responses to life are driven often by destructive patterns.



WHY WE EXIST



68% OF CHILDREN ARE AT LEAST 2 YEARS BEHIND ACADEMICALLY

HOWEVER...



77% OF CHILDREN INVOLVED WITH THE FOUNDATION CATCH UP TO THEIR APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC LEVEL



52% OF CHILDREN INVOLVED WITH THE FOUNDATION SUFFER SEVERE ANXIETY AND MANY HAVE SUICIDAL THOUGHTS

HOWEVER...

94% OF CHILDREN IN OUR TRAUMA COUNSELLING RECOVERY PROGRAMS EXPERIENCE SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN THEIR TRAUMA SYMPTOMS WITHIN 12 MONTHS



42% OF CHILDREN INVOLVED WITH THE FOUNDATION HAVE MAJOR DIFFICULTIES MAKING AND KEEPING FRIENDS



HOWEVER...

64% OF CHILDREN SUCCESSFULLY ENGAGE IN A SOCIAL GROUP OR SPORT FOR THE FIRST TIME AS A RESULT OF THE FOUNDATION'S INTERVENTION

